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COUNTRY: India

SUBJECT: 1953 Good Year for Industry/Food Production

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1. "The year 1953 was generally a good year for Indian industry. Against the index of 128.9 for industrial production during 1952 /Base 1946 = 100/, the average during the first nine months of 1953 was 133.8 which is the highest for any year since Independence, recording a 38% increase over 1947. The most significant progress was made by the textile industry which set up a new all-time record of 4905 million yards of cloth production. This exceeds the Five Year Plan target of 47 hundred million yards and is over 307 million yards more than the production in 1952.
2. "Cloth exports also recorded a rise and amounted to 652 million yards, as against 549 million yards in 1952. The quantity of cloth passed for shipments during December was 78 million yards, the highest for the past 17 months.
3. "The production of cement and salt also touched new records during 1953 while that of steel, coal, and jute goods was maintained at almost the levels of 1952.
4. "A wide range of engineering, chemical, and non-engineering industries, over 30 in number, registered increases in production. Among the engineering industries with increased production were: electric fans, power transformers, conduit pipes, rubber insulated cables, electric motors, house service meters, and domestic refrigerators.
5. "But the year 1953 was by no means completely free from difficulties for industry. Individual industries, some of them very important, had their troubles. Labor trouble affected one of the major producers of steel, while some other industries were affected by a fall in demand, shortage of power or fall in exports. The production of complete ring spinning frames, Diesel engines, power driven pumps, machine tool and radio receivers was lower during 1953 on account of decreased demand.

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6. "The 1952-53 food crops in India were good but according to official estimates, the 1953-54 crops will be even better. Rice production in 1953-54 is two million tons above that of 1952-53 and four million tons in excess of 1951-52. The wheat position is so satisfactory that the government is holding a stock of nearly 800 thousand tons. Production of coarse grains also having gone up, they have been completely decontrolled except in three small regions. The easier food position is due to a combination of various factors such as good rains, market developments abroad, official policy, progress of irrigation and cultivation methods.
7. "Indicative of the changed situation is the shift of emphasis from food subsidies for consumer to measures to assure economic prices to producers."

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